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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.DISCUSSES MINERAL RESOURCES OF SINKIANG

1. Oil

Besides the well-known oil fields in Wu-su, Kucha, Wu-shih (Uch Turfan), and Wu-ch'ia (Ulugh Chat), there are oil reserves in T'ou-t'un-ho, Szu-ch'a-kou, Su-ta-ch'e, and Shui-mo-kou in Urumchi Hsien; Shang-wo-pu in So-ch'e Hsien; Hsiao-kua in Sha-wan Hsien; Ch'ing-shih-hsia in Chuguchak Hsien; Ho-tzu-erh-p'o in Kashgar Hsien; and many oil wells in the southwestern section of Sui-lai Hsien. There are also crude oil wells, natural gas wells, and asphalt deposits in different regions of Sinkiang now being exploited by crude native methods.

Wu-su Area

The Tu-shan-tzu Oil Field in this area was opened jointly by the Sinkiang provincial government and the Soviet Union in 1935. The drilling of wells was begun in 1938. Since then, some 30 wells have been drilled with a daily crude oil output of 30-40 tons. The oil field suspended its operation in 1943. It has a good medium-grade naphthalene-type oil which can be refined into gasoline or aviation fuel. The oil field has possibilities of great development if the necessary transport routes are established and if refining equipment is installed.

The area also has some oil deposits in Ssu-su-mu, Chiang-chun-kou, An-chi-hai-ho, and Ta-shih-t'an.

Kucha Area

This area has more than 30 oil wells. The oil is being extracted by a copper plant, utilizing crude native methods. The depths of the wells range from 7-8 meters to more than 20 meters. The oil output from each well averages 10-20 liters every 10 days. The oil is good only for lighting purposes.

This area also has natural gas at Pa-k'o-j-ti in Yen-shui-kou.

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Aksu Area

The T'a-k'o-la-k'o Oil Field has a thick lamellar seam covering a wide area. At present, oil is being extracted in the river gorge district, southeast of Chi-t'e-ko-po. The native populace, with simple refining equipment, extract oil during spring, summer, and autumn months.

Another oil field being exploited by crude methods is the An-chiu-an in the southeast section of Aksu Hsien. It produces 2-3 gallons daily. Four gallons of extracted oil can be refined to produce one gallon of kerosene.

Wu-ch'ia (Ulugh Chat) Area

The Kung-kou Oil Field has a poor-grade oil containing much naphthalene. One vertical shaft was drilled but there has been no oil flow thus far. At present, the native populace is producing naphthalene by boiling oil-sands.

2. Coal and Iron

Sinkiang has a wide distribution of Silurian system coal strata, including bituminous and coking coal. In addition to the coal mines in Urumchi, Kucha, and Wu-su hsien, large deposits are found in the foothills of the T'ien Shan, in the central region of the province, and in the foothills of the K'un-lun Mountains. Iron ore is found in sandstone and wherever Silurian system coal strata are found.

Urumchi Area

The Ha-t'u-pi Coal Mine in this area has two layers of coal seams. Each seam averages about 0.7 meter. The estimated deposit is about 100 million metric tons. It has an average daily output of 500-600 metric tons and an annual output of 150,000 metric tons. The upper layer contains anthracite with high ash content; the lower layer is composed of bituminous coal suitable for coking purpose.

Kucha Area

The A-hei Coal Mine is being mined intermittently by the native populace. It has an annual output of not more than 100 tons. There still remain 33,600,000 metric tons of the estimated deposit of 33,800,000 metric tons to be mined. The coal is of good quality with a low sulfur content. It is bituminous and suitable for coking purpose.

As for iron mining, the A-hei Siderite Mine has an estimated deposit of nearly 3 million metric tons with 30 percent iron content.

Wu-su Area

The lignite of the Tzu-su-mu Coal Mine was first mined in recent years by the Tzu-shan-tzu Oil Refinery to obtain fuel for use at its own boilers and for households nearby. The mine has a daily output of 40-50 tons and an estimated deposit of about 24 million metric tons.

At the western sector of Wu-su Hsien is the K'ang-su Coal Mine, which has an estimated deposit of 18 million metric tons. The coal is of good quality and can be used for coking.

Urumchi Area

The Hsi-shan-yao siderite mine has an estimated deposit of 750,000 metric tons with iron content of 20-40 percent.

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Other Areas

Siderite and magnetite deposits are also found in Pai-ch'eng, Ch'anf-chi, Fu-yuan, Chuguchak, I-ning, Wu-ch'ia (Ulugh Chat), and Kung-ha.

3. Gold, Silver, Copper

There are many gold-producing mines in Sinkiang. Besides the Ch'eng-hua, Chuguchak, and Yu-tien mines, there are gold nugget seams in Yen-ch'i, and T'u-lu-fan. Gold dust deposits are found in Urumchi, Sui-lai, Chi-t'ai, Chen-hsi, Wei-li, Ch'ang-chi, Ning-yuan, and Khotan hsiens.

The gold from the A-erh-t'ai Mine in Ch'eng-hua Hsien was first mined in 1911. The output reached its peaks in 1925-31 and 1938-42. The mine is divided into the Tung-shan and the Hsi-shan sectors; and, at one time, employed some 2,500 miners. The mine was placed in the hands of a private firm in 1942.

The Ch'ia-t'u-shan Gold Mine in Chuguchak Hsien was opened jointly by Russians and Chinese during the Ch'ing Dynasty. The project was soon abandoned because of financial losses. The mine was later reopened by the Pao-hsin Company.

The Yu-tien Gold Mine started operations during the Ch'ing Dynasty. It has, at present, five refineries and about 2,000 miners.

The production of silver in Sinkiang is carried out in Pai-ch'eng, and Aksu. Although accurate figures are unavailable, it is reported that silver is also being mined in some localities in the northern and southern regions of Sinkiang.

There is a rich copper mine in Kucha which started operations during the Sheng Dynasty. Its operation was later suspended, however. Copper is also mined at present in Kashgar, Yen-ch'i, Urumchi, I-ning, and Sui-ting hsiens.

4. Tungsten

There are tungsten mines in Ch'i-k'o-t'ai, Hu-ssu-t'ai, and Chu-li-k'un in the northern sector of Wen-ch'uan Hsien. The mines have estimated reserves of about 8,600 metric tons and were opened by the Russians. They are equipped with concentration facilities, cutting, pulverizing, sifting, and washing machines.

5. Other Minerals

Sinkiang also abounds in salt, gypsum, quartz, jade, sulfur, and arsenic. Salt is obtained from salt ponds in Urumchi, Sui-lai, Chuguchak, Chieh-shih, Yen-ch'i, Ch'ing-ho; from the salt fields in Ha-mi, T'u-lu-fan, Chuguchak, I-li, Yen-ch'i, Lun-tai, So-ch'e, Chieh-shih, Yeh-ch'eng, P'i-shan; and rock salt is obtained in Kucha, Pai-ch'eng, Aksu, and Wu-su. Jade and quartz have been mined in Sinkiang for a long time and are used mostly in the handicraft industry. There are some deposits of sulfur and arsenic but they are not yet mined in great quantities.

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